

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Amended) A medical or dental-medical treatment instrument comprising:
 - a media line for water or spray, extending from a rearward end to a forward end region of the treatment instrument; and
 - a filter cartridge arranged in the treatment instrument in the line section of the media line, wherein the filter cartridge is provided in two-part form, including
 - an exchangeable tube-shaped cartridge housing, and
 - a filter element for the media line arranged in the cartridge housing,
 - wherein the filter element has the form of a filter sleeve including a sleeve wall and which is closed at one end by an end wall and at the other end stands up, in the longitudinal direction of the filter cartridge, from a filter carrier in the form of an annular flange which has a through channel connected with the inner space of the filter sleeve and is either connected with a circumferential wall of the cartridge housing or inserted therein;
 - and wherein the direction of passage of the medium is directed transversely to the sleeve wall, and,
 - wherein the filter cartridge stands under a laterally outwardly directed spring tension, which upon its dismounting displaces or tilts the filter cartridge outwardly upon pulling apart parts of the instrument..

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Amended) Medical or dental-medical treatment instrument comprising:
 - a media line for water or spray, the media line extending from a rearward end to a forward end region of the treatment instrument;
 - an exchangeable filter element arranged in the media line;
 - a rearward connection part;
 - a forward handpiece; and

a plug coupling releasably coupling the connection part and the forward handpiece, the plug coupling formed between the connection part and an insert part in the handpiece, which is connectable with the handpiece by a connection sleeve, which sleeve can be mounted from the rear and removed to the rear, and which insert part is, with the back connection sleeve rearwardly drawn, axially displaceable between a rearward mounting intermediate position and a forward end position, wherein, there is arranged in the forward handpiece and/or in the insert part a free space the lateral opening of which is covered over by the mounted connection sleeve and is opened with the connection sleeve drawn back, and in that a filter cartridge mountable in the media line can be put in place, and again removed, through the opening into the free space.

4. (Previously Amended) Treatment instrument according to claim 3, wherein the filter cartridge has a filter element in the form of a filter sleeve, and the direction of passage of the medium is directed transversely to the sleeve wall.

5. (Previously Amended) Treatment instrument according to claim 1, wherein the filter cartridge is connected by plug connections with associated sections of the media line.

6. (Previously Amended) Treatment instrument according to claim 3, wherein the media line extends through the insert part and an up-stream plug connection is arranged between the filter cartridge and the insert part.

7. (Previously Amended) Treatment instrument according to claim 1, wherein plug connection parts are arranged at ends of the filter cartridge and include a plug pin having a through channel and a plug recess.

8. (Previously Amended) Treatment instrument according to claim 7, wherein the plug pin is smaller in its cross-sectional size than the cartridge housing and is connected with the circumferential wall of the cartridge housing by means of a housing end wall.

9. (Previously Amended) Treatment instrument according to claim 7, wherein the plug recess is formed by means of a the circumferential wall of the cartridge housing.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Amended) Treatment instrument according to claim 1, wherein the filter sleeve has a plurality of through-holes in a plurality of transverse planes arranged axially one behind another, and wherein each transverse plane includes a portion of the plurality of through-holes arranged distributed over a circumference of the filter sleeve.

12-22 (Canceled)

23. (Previously Added) Treatment instrument according to claim 1, further comprising:

plug connection parts arranged at the ends of the filter cartridge housing and connectable or connected with associated sections of the media line.

24. (Previously Added) Treatment instrument according to claim 23, wherein the plug connection parts are formed either at one end by a plug pin with a through channel and at the other end by a plug recess or on both ends by plug recesses.

25. (Previously Added) Treatment instrument according to claim 24, wherein the circumferential wall of the cartridge housing projects with an end section facing away from the filter sleeve over the filter carrier and forms a plug recess.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Added) Treatment instrument according to claim 3, wherein the insert part and the connection sleeve are mounted on the handpiece in the open position.